

The Guilty

Cert 15 Denmark 2018 85 mins

Crew

Director Gustav Möller
Screenplay Gustav Möller
Emil Nygaard Albertsen
Cinematography Japser J. Spanning
Film Editing Carla Luffe
Original music Carl Coleman
Caspar Hesselager

Cast

Jakob Cedergren Asger Holm
Jessica Dinnage Iben (voice)
Omar Shargawi Rashid (voice)
Johan Olsen Michael (voice)
Katinka Evers-Jahnsen
Mathilde (voice)

Synopsis

Copenhagen, the present. Police officer Asger Holm, demoted to desk work, expects a quiet life. But then he gets a panicked phone call from a kidnapped woman who disconnects abruptly.

Asger, confined to the police station, has to use others as his eyes and ears as the severity of the crime slowly becomes more clear. The search for the missing woman and her assailant takes all his intuition and skill, as a ticking clock and his own personal demons conspire against him.



Booking Information

Distributor: Signature Entertainment

DVD bookings:

Can be booked via

TROY FILM AGENCY

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See inside front cover for details

Available: now



Reviews

Godard said that all you need to make a film is a girl and a gun. Well, with his smart and mercilessly gripping abduction thriller, the Danish director Gustav Möller has pulled it off with a middle-aged man and a hands-free phone. Like the Tom Hardy movie *Locke*, this is a one-man show, claustrophobically confined to a single location - a drab office where deskbound cop Asger (Jakob Cedergren) is responding to 999 calls. Miraculously, Möller turns a handful of phone conversations into a nerve shredder.

...What makes this all so compelling is a knockout performance by Cedergren, who reminded me a little of a Danish Paddy Considine. The details of his face - a twitch, the slight throb of a vein on his forehead - are as riveting as the police chases we don't see.

The film is a card-calling achievement for the first-time film-maker Möller, who pulls the strings with icy calculation. But there's more to *The Guilty* than a race against the clock. Drop by drop, information is fed to us about the incident that left Asger confined to desk duty. On the phone, he also veers wildly from the what-to-say-to-in-a-kidnap-scenario instructions given out at police academy. Is Asger a good guy going the extra mile, or does he have a dangerous delusion of himself as a crusading cop? Or is it more complicated than that?

What a flat-out brilliant film this is... as with all these Scandi-noirs, the title sounds far more chilling in Danish: Den skyldige. It may start a trend for call centre thrillers.

Cath Clarke, The Guardian, October 2018

... If the film operates as both a quick procedural thriller and a slower-burning character study, its mystery is shared across both modes. Shot mostly in peering, invasive close-up by cinematographer Jasper Spanning, Cedergren carries the whole with tight-nerved physical and vocal intensity, progressively externalizing the rage of a character who tries his best not to be read; it's his most generous showcase since Thomas Vinterberg's *Submarino*. Spanning and production designer Gustav Pontoppidan light and design the office space with appropriately utilitarian drabness, giving the imagination little inclination - nor much room - to wander from Asger and his stern, strained brow...

Guy Lodge, Variety, January 2018

Film Facts

- ★ The film premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival 2018, where it won the World Cinema Audience Award. It was shortlisted in the Best Foreign Language Film competition at the 91st Academy Awards.
- ★ The director, producer, cinematographer and film editor all knew each other and were fellow graduates from the National Film School of Denmark.
- ★ A Hollywood remake is planned, with Jake Gyllenhaal in the lead role.

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